

47 Park Street Bristol
June 15th 1856

My dear Miss Weston

Ever since Miss Cotton
received your kind letter from Paris
she has been most wished to write
to you, but if you knew the number
of claims on her time when she
is well enough to write, and the
frequent returns of head-ache
which for the time quite incapa-
citate her, you would, I am
sure excuse her for any appa-
rent neglect. Mr. Webb did most
kindly forward your letter telling
of your first arrival in England
and she rejoiced much I assure
you, my dear Miss Weston, as did
many other friends, at the prospect
of soon meeting you face to face,
and although week after week
passed away without any letter of

welcome having actually written, you
would not I am sure in dear Miss
Estlin's case believe in its existence
the less. Before proceeding any
further, it would perhaps be as well
to say that I am your Manchester
correspondent, and that I have had
the pleasure of spending several
months lately with Miss Estlin, which
enables me to write to you in the
double capacity of my own character
and as her deputy in which latter
I am happy to be assisted by Miss
Nesbitt who is at present staying
in Park Street, & who will I hope
add a note to mine. Early in the Spring
Miss Estlin was so much troubled with
her frequently recurring attacks of
head-ache that she found it quite
necessary to yield to the advice of
her friends and give up as much
as possible all employment that
required much mental effort, and
devote herself pretty much this summer

& the reestablishment of her health -
With this view we have spent the
last two months at the sea-side
part of the time in Devonshire and
latterly at Clevedon about 12 miles
from Bristol where we were joined
by Miss Wigham and my sister Miss
Long. Our whole party returned
to Bristol yesterday, and we have
every reason to believe that the
thorough change of scene and air
together with the relinquishment as
far as possible of all anxious respon-
sibilities has had a beneficial
effect, although Mary's health is
still far from strong, and will pro-
bably require some months of the same
kind of life fully to restore her. Do
not however suppose that she is at all
an invalid or that she is less equal
than ever to go through any necessary
duties, but it is quite evident that
in the latter part of her dear father's
life and in the few months following

his death there was a storm and a
gripure that is now telling upon her
for anxiety & make some plan
for an enlarged memoir of her
father and the difficulties that at
present interfere with her work
partly arising from her own
want of strength & partly from
outward causes, has weighed much
upon her. however she has now
happily resigned herself & wait
until she is herself strong for the
task, or some other opening present
itself through which the work may
be accomplished, and contents herself
with the preliminary work of
reading through the diary. In
this employment it has been my
privilege often to share and
I am who knew Mr. Estlin's mind
so well as you must have done, I
need not say that it is indeed a
privilege to be led as it were into
the daily life of such a truly

Ms. A. 7. 3. 9. 4

2. excellent and superior man. His
character seemed to have a peculiar
charm, independently of his high
mental endowment, and the
steadiness and perseverance with
which he followed every good
work, seem to give it wonderful
height and consistency. It would
indeed be a boon to the world
if the daily record of such a
life could be given to it. At all
events he has left the record
and it is to be hoped, that some
portions at least will be published
eventually. But I hope when you
visit Mary you will have time
to be introduced to this and the
many other interesting memorials
that fill 47 Park St. a house that
has long been a great centre of
attraction to many distant friends.
From something you say, we think
you have an impression that Mary

book, in which he is engaged & then
mostly by private letters and long
patient conversations has he been
enabled to do his principal work
Where he is known he will never
be forgotten I am sure. I must
not enter on details - Perhaps Miss
Wigham may explain some of it.

Edinburgh Committee's difficulties
with Julia Griffiths - we in Manchester
have not quite escaped, but we
have all great faith in the wisdom
of holding on firmly and letting
the little bugs, the snakes pass by.

I must now conclude, feeling that
this will be a poor substitute for
one of Mary's letters, at the same
time I am sure you will accept
the proxy under the circumstances
I believe that she is looking forward
to a meeting with you when you can
come to Bristol with no common
interest. Believe me, dear Miss W.

Sincerely & affectionately yours
Rebecca Whitely